

Message Text

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FOR DEVINE - ARA/LA/NC AND S, S/S ONLY

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJ: PROPOSED CARACAS TOAST BY SECRETARY KISSINGER

(DEPT MAY WISH TO INTERSPERSE SUBSTANTIVE SENTENCES AND STIR
SLOWLY)

FOLLOWING IS DRAFT OF PROPOSED TOAST BY SECRETARY IN CARACAS:
BEGIN TEXT. YOUR EXCELLENCY, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

YOU DO ME GREATHONOR BY YOUR PRESENCE HERE THIS EVENING
LOOKING AROUND AT THIS PRODIGIOUS GATHERING, I AM REMINDED OF
A STORY TOLE ABOUT A EUROPEAN STATESMAN DURING ONE OF HIS VISITS
TO THE US. AT A DINNER PARTY, SIMILAR TO THIS, HE WAS ASKED
BY A VERY EXCITED WOMAN: "DOESN'T IT THRILL YOU, SIR, TO KNOW
THAT EVERYTIME YOU MAKE A SPEECH, THE HALL IS PACKED TO OVER-
FLOWING?" THE STATESMAN SHOOK HIS HEAD IN AGREEMENT AND SAID,
"IT IS QUITE FLATTERING. BUT, WHENEVER I FEEL THIS WAY, I ALWAYS
REMEMBER THAT IF, INSTEAD OF MAKING A SPEECH, I WAS BEING
HANGED, THE CROWD WOULD BE TWICE AS BIG."

I HAVE LONG LOOKED FORWARD TO MY TRIP TO VENEZUELA. AS YOU KNOW,
EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST LAST YEAR FORCED ME TO CANCEL EARLIER
PLANS TO COME TO YOUR GREAT COUNTRY. THE US ATTACHES GREAT
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IMPORTANCE TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES. OUR LONGEST,

UNINTERRUPTED TRADITION OF FOREIGN POLICY HAS BEEN WITH VENEZUELA. YOUR

GENERAL FRANCISCO DE MIRANDA WAS A CLOSE FRIEND AND SUPPORTER OF THE FRENCH NOBLEMAN LAFAYETTE, WHO FOUGHT IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AGAINST THE BRITISH. LATER, AMERICANS FOUGHT AND DIED ALONG SIDE GENERAL MIRANDA IN APRIL OF 1806 AT PUERTO CABELLO WHEN THE PRECURSOR MADE HIS FIRST ATTEMPT TO WIN THE LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF VENEZUELA FROM COLONIAL DOMINATION. IN 1812 THE US PASSED THE FIRST FOREIGN AID BILL IN ITS HISTORY TO HELP RELIEVE THE VICTIMS OF THE "GOOD THURSDAY EARTHQUAKE" THAT COST THE LIVES OF 20,000 VENEZUELANS IN THE AREAS OF CARACAS, LA GUAIRA AND PUERTO CABELLO. THE IDEALS, OBJECTIVES AND CAMPAIGNS OF YOUR GREATEST SO, SIMON BOLIVAR, HAD THE WIDEST SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE US. IN 1822 THE US BECAME THE FIRST FOREIGN POWER TO RECOGNIZE THE INDEPENDENCE OF VENEZUELA.

ON THE EVE OF OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, I THINK IT IS FITTING TO REPEAT WHAT I SAID IN HOUSTON LAST YEAR: THE US AND LATIN AMERICAN WERE BORN OUT OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST TYRANNY. OUR PEOPLES ARE BOUND NOT ONLY BY GEOGRAPHY, BUT BY THE COMMON HERITAGE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION, DEDICATED TO A NEW WORLD OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY.

MR. PRESIDENT, I MUST TELL YOU THAT I WAS DEEPLY TOUCHED BY YOUR MOVING REMARKS ABOUT ABRAHAM LINCOLN, WHICH YOU MADE TO A GROUP OF AMERICAN JOURNALISTS LAST YEAR. FOR AMERICANS TO BE TOLD BY THE LEADER OF AN IMPORTANT NATION LIKE VENEZUELA THAT ABRAHAM LINCOLN IS ONE OF HISTORY'S MOST SIGNIFICANT HUMAN BEINGS, THAT HIS STATUE SHOULD BE ERECTED IN EVERY MAJOR CITY OF THE WORLD "BECAUSE HE DOES NOT BELONG TO THE US ALONE, HE BELONGS TO THE WORLD".. IS A TRIBUTE OF THE HIGHEST MAGNITUDE.

I KNOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME FEELING HERE THAT THE VIEWS OF VENEZUELA ARE NOT WIDELY KNOWN IN THE US BECAUSE OF AN ALLEGED LACK OF INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN NEWS MEDIA. PERHAPS THIS WAS TRUE AT ONE TIME, BUT I MUST ASSURE YOU IT IS NOT SO TODAY. I READ WITH GREAT INTEREST AND BENEFIT, ALMOST EVERY WEEK, OF THE IDEAS, PHILOSOPHY AND MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THIS GREAT DEMOCRACY, KNOWN AFFECTIONATELY TO THE PRESS AS "CAP."

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IT SEEMS THAT CAP IS LIKE THE FAMOUS CHARACTER IN ONE OF OUR CARTOON STRIPS, "HE'S HERE, HE'S THERE, HE'S EVERYWHERE." IT IS A DISTINCTION THAT AT ONE TIME, THE PRESS HAD RESERVED FOR ME ALONE. I AM DELIGHTED TO HAVE SUCH A DISTINGUISHED STATESMAN SHARE THIS HONOR TODAY.

I READ WITH GREAT ATTENTION, MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR COMMENTS IN THE

SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL EDITION OF THE MAGAZINE SATURDAY REVIEW.
I AGREE WITH YOU WHEN YOU SAY THAT THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REDISCOVER
THE ETHICAL AND POLITICAL VALUES THAT GVE BIRTH TO THE HOPE OF THE
AMERICAS. AND THAT " INTERDEPENDENCE WITHOUT DEPENDENCE AND
COOPERATION WITHOUT SUBMISSION OPEN UP NEW HORIZONS FOR THE FUTURE
OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES."

WE NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE INTER-AMERICAN COOPERATION
THE ILLUSTRIOUS EXAMPLE OF THE GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE THAT I
BELIEVE IS SO NECESSARY FOR THE SURVIVAL AND WELL BEING OF ALL PEOPLES

EVERYWHERE. THRU OUR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS, WE HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THE CNDITION OF MANKIND.

YOU PUT YOUR FINGER ON THE HEART OF THE MATTER, MR PRESIDENT,
WHEN YOU SAID "WE MUST CREATE A WORLD OF COOPERATION AND AVOID THE
DANGEROUS CONFRONTATIONS THAT ARISE FROM A WORLD HOBbled BYINUUSTICE
AND CONTRADICTIONS."

I BELIEVE THAT THE QUARRELS AND SUSPICIONS OF THE PAST PALE IN
IMPORTANCE TO THE CHALLENGES AND POSSIBILITIES OPEN TO US
THRU A DIALOGUE BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT AND EQUALITY. I RECALL
THE WORDS OF WINSTON CHURCHILL AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR.
APPEARING BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN STRASSBURG AND PLEADING
FOR THE UNIFICATION OF A EUROPE THAT HAD BEEN NEARLY DESTROYED TWICE
BY WAR, THE BRITISH STATESMAN ASKED: "IS THE ONLY LESSON OF HISTORY
TO BE THAT MANKIND IS UNTEACHABLE?"

I HAVE AN ABIDING FAITH IN THE INTELLIGNECE AND COMMON SENSE OF
THE PEOPLES OF OUR GREAT COUNTRIES TO WORK IN HARMONY FOR THE
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THIS HEMISPHERE.
I COME TO SOUTH AMERICA FOR THE FIRST TIME AS SECRETARY OF STATE WITHA
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STRONG SENSE OF A UNIVERSAL DESIRE AMONG YOUR LEADERS TO SURMOUNT
THE DIFFERENCES WHICH HAVE DIVIDED US AND TO CREATE A NEW
SPIRIT OF COMMUNICATION THAT WOULD EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS ITSELF
TO THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THIS HEMISPHERE. TO DO LESS WOULD
MAKE MOCKERY OF ALL THE SACRIFICES WE HAVE MADE TOGETHER
BEGINNING WITH MIRANDA'S ATTEMPT TO DISLODGE THE SPANHSH
AT PUERTO CABELLO.

AS I SAID IN MY SPEECH TO THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE US HAS HEARD YOUR VOICES.
WE EMRACES YOUR HOPES. WE WILL JOIN IN YOUR EFFORTS. WE COMMIT
OURSELVES TO OUR COMMON SUCCESSES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT I RAISE MY

GLASS IN TOAST TO THE HEALTH OF YOUR DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENT
AND TO THE CONTINUATION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE CLOSE
AND HARMONIOUS TIES WHICH HAVE MARKED THE HISTORIC RELATIONS
BETWEEN OUR TWO PROUD AND SOVERIEGN NATIONS DURING THE PAST
170 YEARS. END TEXT
SHLAUDEMAM

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